

Updates and Discussion with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Friday, December 3, 2021

Presenters

- Gloria Meraz, Director and State Librarian
- Karen McElfresh, Resource Sharing Projects Coordinator
- Laura Tadena, Equity and Inclusion Consultant
- Christina Taylor, Youth Services Consultant
- Cindy Fisher, Digital Inclusion Consultant

A message from the new State Librarian

- A commitment to libraries and the people we all serve
- A commitment to you
- A commitment to moving forward together





Where are we today?

- Programs and grants today
- Return to “normal”
- Proven value
- Collections challenges
- Preparing for and using federal resources





Priorities and Moving Ahead

- Education
- Program and service infrastructure
- Strategic planning and budgeting for the 88th Legislative Session
- Strategies for digital inclusion, literacy, and resource delivery



E-Read Texas



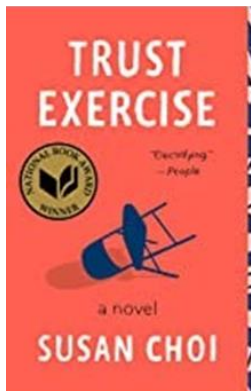
E-Read Texas

- E-Book program for public libraries
 - Eligibility criteria posted on <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks>
- Access to e-book collection of 10,000+ titles
- Access to SimplyE mobile app
- Costs 100% paid by TSLAC
 - Sign up with TSLAC & Amigos
- Overview webinars offered about once per quarter, see website for more info

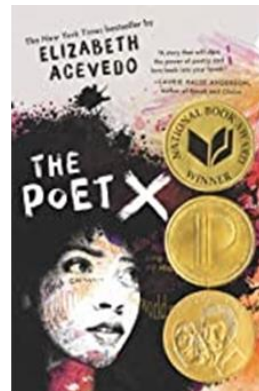


E-Read Texas Collection

- Mostly adult fiction and popular non-fiction
- Some Young Adult crossover titles
- Small collection of about 150 audiobooks - more coming soon!



**Award
Winners**



**YA
Fiction**



**Genre
Fiction**



**Popular
Non-Fiction**



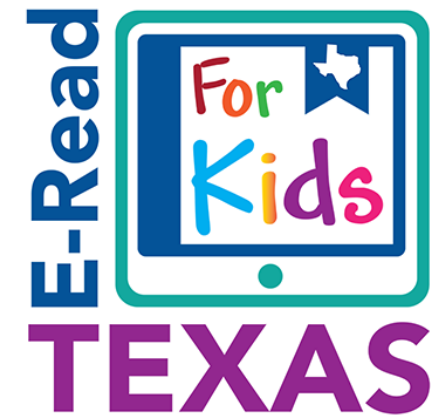
**Popular
Fiction**

Unlimited Collections from Biblioboard

- **Available to ALL Texas libraries**, regardless of type or population size
- Approximately 5,000 e-books
- Perpetual access & no simultaneous user restrictions
- Website is geofenced and does not require a password, as long as the user is in Texas
- Available at: <https://e-readtx.biblioboard.com/home> or via the Biblioboard mobile app
- Catalog records available

E-Read Texas for Kids - Unlimited Collection

- Separate portal for children's content
- Over 600 titles from Teacher Created Materials/ TIME for Kids
- Unlimited simultaneous users
- <https://e-readtxkids.biblioboard.com/home>



Looking ahead

- Adding new suppliers and content from more publishers
- Will be adding more audiobooks
- More non-English language content options

Digital Inclusion & Digital Literacy

Digital Inclusion

TSLAC's Statement on Digital Inclusion:

“We define digital inclusion as the ability of individuals to **access and use information and communication technologies (ICTs)**. Digital inclusion is achieved through **affordable, robust Internet services, digital literacy skills, quality technical support, access to hardware and software**, and opportunities for **resources and services** that augment inclusion efforts.”

Full statement available at
<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/digitalinclusion>



Digital Inclusion - Cohort Training

Two free online peer-learning cohorts:

- Digital Inclusion Action Cohort - assistance planning and implementing digital inclusion programs.
- Data Fluency Cohort - how to read, collect, and use data to make decisions.



Registration open until January 7th. Monthly meetings from January 2022 - June 2022.

More information at <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/edge>



Digital Navigators Pilot

Digital Navigators are individuals who address the whole digital inclusion process — home connectivity, devices, and digital skills — with community members through repeated interactions.

- 10 Texas public libraries will pilot the program.
- Training will be provided by Literacy Minnesota, creators of the Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment.



Digital Literacy Study

- Study will be conducted with a partner.
- Texas public library workers will be surveyed about their current digital literacy offerings, challenges and successes.
- We hope to use the findings to inform TSLAC programs to support Texas libraries in advancing digital literacy services.
- Findings will be presented at a summit in July 2022.

Looking Ahead

Resource refresh:

- Updates to Digital Literacy Toolkit, with partners at the Texas Workforce Commission: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/acl/landltoolkit>

New tools/services:

- Implement a WiFi Analytics product for Texas public libraries

Learning opportunities:

- Monthly updates on the Library Developments blog about Digital Inclusion and Digital Literacy resources, opportunities, and events

Ideas in the Works

Potential ideas, currently exploring possible approaches

- Strategic and programmatic digital literacy training for Texas public library staff
- Statewide license to a digital literacy assessment tool
- Support for public libraries for managed IT services
- Site assessments and technology audits for library IT
- Training on technology planning and maintenance
- Infrastructure grants for libraries to enhance digital inclusion and broadband access



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Inclusive Services

Library Access Programs and Initiatives

TSLAC Pilot Scholarship Program 2021

REFORMA National Conference VII - 50th Anniversary Celebration:

- Virtual Conference held November 4-7, 2021.
- Included pre-conference & conference registration.
- Facilitated post-conference discussion.
- Scholarship recipients include:

Israel Favela, Harris County Public Library

Tina Leos, Hondo Public Library

Liz Pedrosa, Georgetown Public Library

Gloria Powers, Georgetown Public Library

Frank Rivas, Dr. Hector P. Garcia Memorial Library



Looking Ahead

Upcoming Scholarship Opportunity

4th National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) 2022:

- Held October 5-9, 2022 in St. Pete Beach, Florida.
- Open to library staff working in public libraries serving diverse communities.
- Reimbursement scholarship: funds to cover registration, travel, and meals/incidentals.
- Application opens Spring 2022.



Looking Ahead

Non-competitive Grant Opportunity

Library Access Mini Grants:

- Library Access bundles of up to \$5000.
- Up to 2 bundles per libraries.
- Non-competitive item grants.
- Open to libraries serving populations less than 60,000.
- Application window January 2 - March 31, 2022.
- Funds must be spent by June 31, 2022.

Looking Ahead

Learning Opportunities

Inclusive Libraries Webinar Series - Spring 2022

- Trainings designed to support library leaders and library staff build inclusive and equitable library spaces, services, and programs.
- Presenters include library leaders engaged in building better workplaces and equitable services models.
- Topics include: Inclusive recruitment practices, trauma-informed service models, mental-health first aid, multilingual collection development, and user centered programs and services.

Youth Services

Programs and Initiatives

Family Place Libraries Project



**2022 Cohort
Coming Soon**

Network of children's librarians who believe that:

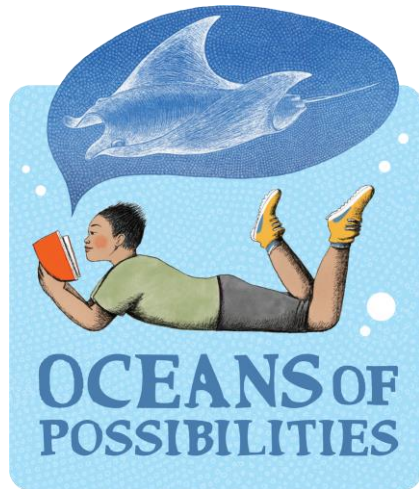
- Literacy begins *at birth*.
- Libraries can help build healthy communities by nourishing healthy families.

Participants are granted (1) **tuition** for a training institute, (2) three years of **follow-up & support**, and (3) **\$6000** to assist with the development of their program.

2022 Summer Library Program Update

Preparations are in full swing:

- Online access is currently available—manuals & materials ordering
- USB manuals will ship soon



Beginning early next year, there will be follow-up to the 2021 survey and support regarding the areas of need expressed by its respondents.

Looking Ahead

Potential ideas, currently being explored

- **Revitalize:**
 - YS Facebook Group
 - School Library Newsletter
- **Initiate:**
 - YS Blog Series
 - Pilot Cohort of school & public library collaborations for SLP
 - Pilot scholarship for attending the professional programming available to librarians & educators at a commercial comic convention in Texas



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Thank you!

Questions?